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# A Residential Campus Gets Connected: University of Dayton Wires Neighborhoods, Starts Freshman Computer Initiative

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**A RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS GETS CONNECTED: UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON  
WIRES NEIGHBORHOODS, STARTS FRESHMAN COMPUTER INITIATIVE**

DAYTON, Ohio — Incoming first-year students at the University of Dayton will be toting familiar belongings to campus when they move in Aug. 21, but computers won't be among their possessions. Their new desktops will be waiting for them in their dorm rooms, fully configured and loaded with the same Microsoft and Lotus software their professors will use.

For the first time at UD, freshmen are purchasing or leasing a Pentium desktop or laptop computer — built by Tangent Computer — through the University, with the annual cost factored into each student's financial aid determination. It's part of UD's commitment to a "technology-enhanced learning environment" that has received resounding approval from entering students, with a record 7,173 students applying for the class and creation, for the first time in about 20 years, of a wait list for acceptance.

The University will welcome 1,775 freshmen when orientation opens Aug. 21.

"Technology is very much a part of society today and the University is committed to creating a connected campus community where students have universal and equal access to the tools and learning resources of the information age, both for education and career preparation," said Thomas Skill, assistant provost for academic technology. "We emphasize technology in ways that enable our faculty and students to collaborate."

There will be no online diplomas conferred by the University of Dayton. Rather than using the tools of technology to replace classroom instruction, UD faculty are using the tools to enhance classroom instruction. Students studying the history of the Vietnam war discuss it online with veterans who had served there, for example. Physics students in their campus lab chart the path of hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean. An online tutorial allows biology students to gauge their knowledge prior to being tested in class.

Students have 24-hour access to the library, can e-mail their professors whenever a question arises and work on group projects around the clock.

All University-owned housing on the highly residential campus — space for 5,645 students in dormitories, residence halls, apartments and 350 houses in the 25-block campus neighborhood — is fully wired for direct high-speed Internet connection as well as the University's 78-channel cable television system and telephone network. The University provides

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dial-in connections to the campus computer network for those who don't have direct connections.

It's a noteworthy initiative: No other residential campus in the country has networked a neighborhood of single-family homes, UD officials say.

Freshmen can either purchase or lease a desktop or laptop computer. Options include two desktops and one notebook: a \$1,277 Intel Pentium II standard computer, \$1,839 Intel Pentium III and \$2,297 Tangent Shuttle Xi notebook (Intel Pentium II).

Two-thirds of the incoming freshmen chose the "Power Tower" Pentium III package, an upgrade from the basic required package. About 100 upperclass students have also ordered computers via UD's program with Tangent.

Hardware, software and network support for the new computer initiative will come, in part, from 20 student computer consultants located in residence halls to offer troubleshooting service and one-on-one and small-group training. Two full-time Tangent technicians will staff an on-campus support center, and a network of about 30 Tangent technicians throughout the state will be available for consultation during installation and a two-week start-up period at the beginning of the school year.

Also in support, a new light-hearted, energetic, technology-focused television show is slated to debut Saturday, Aug. 21, featuring students demonstrating start-up procedures and providing answers to common questions. The cast will take calls from students with specific questions, and basic training videos will run on several of the cable system's channels. A contest once the school year is under way will decide a name for the new show.

Incoming students are part of the technology generation. Half of the applicants applied online through the University's admission Web site (<http://admission.udayton.edu/>), an increase over the 28 percent who applied online last year. And 60 percent of the 870 freshmen in the College of Arts and Sciences started their registration for fall classes via a new Web site designed to elicit their preferences for classes and campus activities such as ROTC and music ensembles. Online descriptions of classes and programs are linked to the registration site so students can read the descriptions as they choose their classes.

The class registration site is at <http://www.udri.udayton.edu/artssciences/>. (See demonstration instructions below.)

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** For media interviews, contact **Tom Skill** at (937) 229-4307 or via e-mail at [skill@udayton.edu](mailto:skill@udayton.edu). For a demonstration of the College of Arts and Sciences class registration site, instead of your Social Security number, type in the three letters identifying a preferred major (BIO for biology, CMM for communication, CHM for chemistry, VAR for visual arts, etc.) followed by -11-1111, then hit the continue button.